

CJS 388 Crime Analysis  
Final Paper Evaluation

Name: Nicholas Pitzer

Content (25 points)

- Ideas are well articulated and understandable
- Evidence of research resulting in knowledge of subject
- Topic is well covered and discussion is well-versed
- Adequate research and references are used and properly cited

Score: 25

Comments:

Very thorough research is clear  
good interviews!

Organization (10 points)

- Introduction adequately prepares reader for content
- Thesis statement is easily recognized
- Writing structure is clear, logical and easy to follow
- Paragraphs are well formed and new paragraphs begin with new content
- Transitions are well developed between paragraphs and paper sections

Score: 10

Comments:

~~Thesis statement is easily recognized~~  
~~Writing structure is clear, logical and easy to follow~~  
~~Paragraphs are well formed and new paragraphs begin with new content~~  
~~Transitions are well developed between paragraphs and paper sections~~  
Good structure  
Excellent transitions

Style/Mechanics (15 points)

- Format: Citations and references follow APA format
- Rules of grammar, usage and punctuation are followed; spelling is correct
- Precise and unambiguous use of vocabulary
- Sentences are complete, clear and concise
- Language is unbiased (Limited or no use of "I", no opining unless appropriate to topic)

Score: 15

Comments:

A few very minor usage errors (tense or subject changes)

5 50

**Urban to Suburban Crime Analysis Comparison**

**Nicholas Pitzen**

**CJS 388**

**Crime Analysis**

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## Urban to Suburban Crime Analysis Comparison – N. Pitzen – CJS388

### Abstract

In every city whether small or large, urban or suburban there will always be crime. There will always be police to go after the criminal element. The police will always need to be one step ahead of the criminal element's game. With this said there are many ways that the police are staying one step ahead of the crime waves in their city or jurisdiction.

With evolution of time there has been an evolution of crime fighting technology. In one Criminal Justice discipline there has been large improvement in technology and how it is used. Crime analysis uses a large array of different crime fighting tool. There crime analysis mapping, predictive analysis, and some old school mapping techniques that are being used still to this day. The data that is used in these analysis techniques typically come from police reporting systems and computer aided dispatch.

There also have been techniques that have always been used when it comes to crime analysis. The techniques are simple and straight forward, as being out in the community. Talking with the community about problems in the area has been one really good source of information. Not only is talking to community about crimes that are occurring it may show what certain citizens are concerned about in their area, which the police department may not know about.

After police departments have gained their data, and have processed it either by technology means or by human intuition it needs to be used. Many police departments use different types of crime analysis, but they typically consume the analyzed data in the same way. The police departments use to gain intelligence on what crime waves are occurring in their area.

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### Urban to Suburban Crime Analysis Comparison

#### Introduction

Currently there are many ways that police departments are gaining intelligence of the occurrences of crime in their area or jurisdiction by using crime analysis. According to Philips and Lee (2011), crime analysis “allows for a greater understanding of the dynamics of unlawful activities, providing possible answers to where, when and why certain crimes are likely to happen.” Some police departments use different technologies, than other police departments do. At times police departments may just use human interactions with their community and associated crime patterns and trends by human intuition. This paper will discuss crime analysis in the Minneapolis Police Department (urban) and will compare and contrast it with its smaller neighboring West Saint Paul Police Department (suburban).

The first section will discuss the different types of technologies that two different police departments use. It will look at what the Minneapolis Police Departments is currently using to analyze crime in their jurisdictions. It will then compare it the smaller suburban police department of West Saint Paul.

The second section will discuss the different types of how the human element in the police department looks at crime analysis. It will look at how the Minneapolis Police Department uses their human resources to find and analyze the data that is occurring in their city. Then it will discuss the different human resources of the smaller suburban West Saint Paul Police Department and how the department utilizes their human resources.

The third section will discuss how the Minneapolis Police Department uses their crime analysis in an urban setting. Then it will discuss how the West Saint Paul Police Department

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uses their crime analysis in a suburban setting. This portion will show how even though they use and have different resources, they use the information in similar ways.

### **Thesis Statement**

This is a final paper that will compare an urban city, Minneapolis' crime analysis means, with a smaller suburban city, West Saint Paul's crime analysis means.

### **Crime Analysis Technology**

Each city has their own crime analysis tools that they have at their disposal to use figure out crime trends, mapping, trends and patterns discovery. According to Juarez (Personal Interview, April 18, 2011), discussed that the Minneapolis police department has many computer tools that he can use to predict the crime movement evolution is "Predictive Analysis" which takes in raw data from several different sources from within the Minneapolis Police departments, it combines the data and creates a "weather map of crime prediction." The Predictive Analysis shows crime forecasts in color, just like a weather map would forecast a storm. The Predictive Analysis is then analyzed by the crime prevention specialist at the Minneapolis Police Department.

According to Laura Vaughan (Personal Interview, April 18, 2011), the city has a few crime analytic tools that she is able to use to process crime trends. one tool she is able to use is "Crime Center." Crime Center gets information from Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD), and also Pro-Phoenix, which get implemented into the Crime Center program system automatically. Crime Center is crime mapping tool that has two sides to it. On one side Crime Center allows the public to view a crime map of crimes in West Saint Paul. On the other side the Police

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Department, typically the crime specialist has the ability to use more comprehensive crime maps that show trends and patterns, and are able to predict the crime waves in the city.

The Minneapolis Police Department has something similar, Nicholas Juarez (Personal Interview, April 18, 2011) explained. The Minneapolis Police Department has an older crime mapping technology that is still used called Code 4. After crime data from several sources has been implemented into the program, the data is analyzed and it creates crime maps that allow the Minneapolis Crime Specialist to interrupt new crimes issues that are occurring in their city's jurisdiction. Code 4 allows the Crime Prevention Specialist to compare crime trends from previous crime trends and it allows them to link by profiling past criminal offender's crime patterns to current crimes patterns that show the same crime method of operation. Although Code 4 is a bit more advanced it allows the Crime Prevention Specialist, the ability to discover trends and pattern in their jurisdiction of Minneapolis, like the City of West Saint Paul's Crime Center does.

Another crime analytical resource that the City of Minneapolis their suburban counterparts, is the Strategic Information Crime Management unit, which is also known as SICM. According to Nicholas Juarez (Personal Interview, April 18, 2011), the Strategic Information Crime Management unit is responsible for analyzing current crime data and immediately dispatching fast occurring information to the correct people in the field in the Minneapolis Police Department. He explained that the Strategic Information Crime Management unit operates from approximately 3:00 PM to 3:00 AM, so it is there to work overnight instantly predicting crime patterns for the night Minneapolis Police Department staff.

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and will provide real time crime analytic information to the needed to Crime Prevention Specialist that will follow up on the information during the day.

### **Manpower for Crime Analysis**

When comparing an urban police department such as the Minneapolis to a suburban police department, that of the West Saint Paul Police, there are many differences in the manpower that goes into analyzing crime data. Larger metropolitan area like Minneapolis have more funds to have more persons that are able to do crime analysis tasks, while smaller suburban police departments, like West Saint Paul have smaller allowances for crime analysis personnel.

According to Nicholas Juarez (Personal Interview, April 18, 2011), larger urban cities such as Minneapolis have the more manpower for crime analysis and other resources, because they typically will have a larger budget. Juarez (Personal Interview, April 18, 2011) continues the Minneapolis usually has 2 to 4 crime prevention specialist for each jurisdiction in the city of Minneapolis. One of the main functions of a crime prevention specialist is to do crime analysis to a point. This array of manpower that the City of Minneapolis has over small suburban areas is a great example of the differences in man power.

To elaborate on the difference in manpower for analyzing crime data is the amount of persons that are available to a suburban area such as West Saint Paul. Laura Vaughan (Personal Interview, April 18, 2011), explains that one of her functions as a Crime Prevention Specialist is to analyze crime data. Laura Vaughan (Personal Interview, April 18, 2011) is able to access reports from Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) and another police reporting system called Pro-Phonics and take those reports and develop crime trends and patterns from. Laura Vaughan

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(Personal Interview, April 18, 2011) explains that she is the main crime analyzer for the Police Department, and when she spots trends, she reports it to the proper person within the police department in West Saint Paul.

With the manpower of a larger city of Minneapolis for crime analysis, has the ability for the crime prevention specialist to go out and canvas their part of the jurisdiction. According to Nicholas Juarez (Personal Interview, April 18, 2011), one of the function of the crime prevention specialist in Minneapolis is to go out and talk to the residence in his jurisdiction, and to let them know of what is going on in their city, as well as gain intelligence of crime that occur in their neighborhood. The Minneapolis Crime Prevention Specialist then takes this information back and shares it with the police officers.

A good way for a person that is involved in crime prevention and crime analysis is not only to know where and when crime patterns and trends, but also know who is doing them. Bernasco and Block (2011) discuss that crime analyzers must know the offenders on the street. According to Nicholas Juarez (Personal Interview, April 18, 2011), the best tool they have is the manpower's mental knowledge of the persons that are responsible for the crime is their jurisdiction. Juarez explains that not only do the crime prevention specialists have to know who their culprits are, but they also have to know the time the offenders operate at, and most importantly know who their offenders are and how to find them.

Laura Vaughan (Personal Interview, April 18, 2011) also agrees that in order to properly do crime analysis. Laura Vaughan (Personal Interview, April 18, 2011) also mentions that you must know who is doing the crime and when. With that knowledge you can use crime maps and



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other crime analytic tools which can greatly improve the ability to track and predict crimes on a human intuition level.

### **How Crime Analysis is Used**

One the police crime prevention specialist, know of crime and occurrences that are happening in their city or jurisdiction they need to take action. Regardless on the size of the city the crime prevention specialist usually take very similar actions. This is required to put their hard work of on the street and in the hands of licensed police officers. so they can use the information on the street.

Nicholas Juarez (Personal Interview, April 18, 2011). explains that once the crime data has been gained and has been analyzed the data is used is several different ways. For certain crime when patterns have been noticed that they are occurring in a similar area or in a similar pattern the crime prevention specialist will let a Police Patrol Sergeant know what is occurring in their area. The Police Patrol Sergeant then will let the patrol officer under them know the information that they received, so the patrol division can be aggressive against the crime that is occurring.

The information that Laura Vaughan (Personal Interview, April 18, 2011), gains is used in a similar way. Vaughan will relay the information to the Patrol Sergeants. The Patrol Sergeants will then relay this crucial information to the Patrol Officers on the street, who will take prompt action with the information. The crime analysis information will also be given to the Patrol Reserve Officer, who will assist in increasing patrol and vigilance in the troubled area.

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According to both Laura Vaughan (Personal Interview, April 18, 2011), and Nicholas Juarez (Personal Interview, April 18, 2011), the information will also be released in meeting to are areas of the police department. In these meeting other areas of the police department will also share what they know is occurring with crime preventions specialists. Also in these meetings higher ranking officials will attend so they know what is occurring in their city. Sometime neighboring city's police department will be included so they can share their crime intelligence with the cities that are in attendance at these meetings.

### **Conclusion**

In summation, the type of an urban police department such as Minneapolis in some aspects will have a larger crime prevention specialist staff to assist with crime analysis. Versus a suburban police department such as West Saint Paul may have a smaller crime prevention staff. However both crime analysis units have appropriate resources to conquer their tasks

An urban police department such as Minneapolis has a bit more crime analysis technology, however an urban jurisdiction will have more crime than to analyze then a smaller jurisdiction will. A suburban police department such as West Saint Paul will have less crime analysis tools, that that of their neighboring urban departments, because they typically have less crime to analyze, than that of their urban police departments have.

Along with the differences in tools that a suburban versus urban police department have, there is also another difference, such as manpower. According to aforementioned research the Minneapolis Police Department have more manpower to analyze crime than that of a smaller police department. A suburban police department like West Saint Paul will have less

manpower to look into crime issues within their given jurisdiction; however in most cases the manpower is adequate due to the lower crime occurrences in the suburban area.

When it comes to manpower and crime analysis tools there is a vast difference in the resources between urban and suburban settings. However, there is little difference in what the two cities of West Saint Paul and Minneapolis do with their crime analysis. They both use their crime intelligence in a very similar manner. Both cities use the crime knowledge they gain and provide it to the patrol division so appropriate actions can be taken to stop or prevent crime in there city.

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### References

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